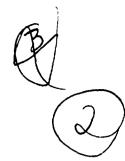
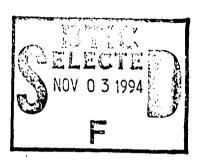
### AD-A285 893





Final Technical Report for the Office of Naval Research Grant No. N00014-93-1-0441

Submitted by
The Center for Coastal Studies
Provincetown, Mass.

October 1994

This document for public residence to distribution to



### CENTER FOR COASTAL STUDIES

A Private Non-Profit Organization for Research, Education and Conservation in the Coastal & Marine Environments

59 Commercial Street • P. O. Box 1036 • Provincetown, Massachusetts 02657 • Telephone: (508) 487-3622

October 24, 1994

Defense Technical Information Center Building 5, Cameron Station Alexandria, Virginia 22304-6145

Re: ONR Grant No. N00014-93-1-0441

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find three copies of the Final Technical Report for ONR Grant No. N00014-93-1-0441. If you have any questions regarding this report please contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Charles A. Mayo at (508) 487-3622. Thank you for your assistance and patience with regard to this grant.

Sincerely,

David L. DeKing Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Office of Naval Research, Boston Regional Office

### Introduction

The Office of Naval Research under grant number N00014-93-1-0441 provided support to the Center for Coastal Studies for the purchase of equipment and software to aid in the development of field and laboratory protocols for the studying the behavior of large whales. Here we report on progress in the development of techniques associated with the study of whale behavior in combination with the collection of data on the movement patterns of whales, human activities, and oceanographic conditions, a Multivariable Collection Protocol or MCP. The focus of this report is the development of field and laboratory techniques to determine the variables, to design a protocol for field collection, to apply the real time sonagraphic software to collected vocalizations, and to develop a simplified catalog of sounds. The field and laboratory protocols were developed to (1) permit the simple and inexpensive collection of descriptive information surrounding each observation, (2) yield an analysis which would either suggest or confirm the relationship among the selected variables of the many which affect whale behavior, and (3) provide baseline information on the variables permitting a detailed comparative analysis of whale behavior.

Specifically, the equipment purchased under the grant was intended to support the development of the field protocols for (1) documentation of whale vocalizations and (2) management of all incoming data via data loggers. Additional equipment and software was purchased for laboratory analysis of vocal behavior and for integration of observations and analysis using statistical package. This report, therefore is focused on audio documentation, the development of simple field synchronization techniques, and, particularly, on the application of real time sonagraphic software to the development of a simple key - based catalog of sounds.

### Field Collection

A-1

For the development of the MCP we chose to collect information on the right whale both because this species is poorly understood and because the severely depleted condition of the population makes an understanding of the activity patterns of the species of paramount conservation significance.

Cape Cod Bay, the area where our studies have been ongoing since 1984, has long been known as a habitat where right whales feed and socialize in the winter and early spring. The Bay, therefore, was recommended in the Final Recovery Plan for the Northern Right Whale (Eubalaena glacialis) (National Marine Fisheries Service, 1991) for designation as a critical habitat and so declared in the summer of 1994. Each year since 1984 we have observed as many as 50 right whales in Cape Cod and Massachusetts Bays, primarily in the winter and early spring, feeding and caring for their young (Hamilton and Mayo, 1990). The eastern part of the embayment where small groups of right whales actively feed at or near the surface is particularly rich in seasonally abundant phyto- and zooplankton resources which may attract the whales to the region. In this area of the eastern Bay we documented the surface activity of groups of socializing whales and while collecting basic information on the food resources of the area for combination with data on the vocalization of the whales and information on vessel movement. To develop and test documentation techniques we collected synchronized video and audio recordings coupled with data logging of oceanographic and biological information. Of these observations, we concentrated our development efforts on two particularly rich (and, therefore, challenging from a data management perspective) video-audio segments and associated documentation collected on 26 March 1993 and 31 March 1993, a total of 1.9 hours in duration. The behavioral information was combined with data from oceanographic observations and collections of zooplanktonic foods to yield a raw data set available for analysis.

### Laboratory Analysis

In the laboratory, we developed the functional interfaces between the DAT recorder used for field recording of underwater sounds, an analog tape player/recorder used for creating working sound sources, a 486/33 PC running Real Time Sonagraphic (RTS) software obtained from Engineering Design, Belmont, MA, and a laser printer. Using these systems it was possible to operate the audio tape and the RTS side-by-side permitting the running display of individual audio event spectrograms vs. time and comparing these with behaviors available from a data logger running event recording software developed at CCS. It was also possible to run video segments synchronized with the audio record and RTS sonagraphic display to demonstrate the association between observed surface behavioral events and the acoustic record. Through the use of the event and data recording software, we were able to thereby associate the

disparate data bases (see figure 1) from several sources to create the prototype Multivariable Collection Protocol.

### Variables

The variables selected for documentation fell into the broad database categories listed in figure 1. For the purposes of this contract, the focus of our development effort was the design of a system for recording and analyzing whale vocalizations compatible with the documentation techniques used for the collection of data for other databases. It was necessary, therefore, to create a collection technique (see below) which permitted the construction of a real - time comparison of incoming sounds with other databases and to initially categorize and process the acoustic information according to simple catalogs to demonstrate that vocal activity could be documented and compared to other data streams. Fundamental to this approach was the development of methods for application of the Real Time Sonagraphic software (Engineering Design, Belmont, MA) to collected data. Subsequently, with RTS running, we proceeded to collect sonograms of right whale vocal activity analyzed from time synchronized audio and video tapes for the purposes of developing a simplified catalog of vocalizations. Development of the components of the vocalization study were accomplished with the aid of several interns and staff members: Margaret Murphy (field recording techniques), Janet Doherety (RTS use), and Dara Wambach and Nicky Spencer (cataloging).

### Results

Examples of the simple descriptive techniques used for the MCP audio database are given in Appendices I and II. The numerically described type sounds are exemplified by the first 10 sonograms in Appendix III and described in Appendix IV.

In addition to the development of a simplified, hierarchical catalog, the collation of data from one observation is presented in the example found in Appendix V.

### Continued Work

The development started with the protocols described here will continue to focus on the streamlining of field data collection from the variety of different sources. In particular, we are endeavoring to streamline the field logging by employing pen-based computers

# MCP: databases and sources

- Behavioral Observations (video to data log)
- Vesse! Activity (direct data log)
- · Vocal Behavior (hydrophone to tape to log)
- Orientation (direct data log)
- Oceanographic Data (direct CTD log)
- Biological Data (hand record; field collection)
- · Environmental Observations (hand record)
- Demographics/Genetics (photo to catalogs)
- Historic Data (photo to CCS/NEA database)

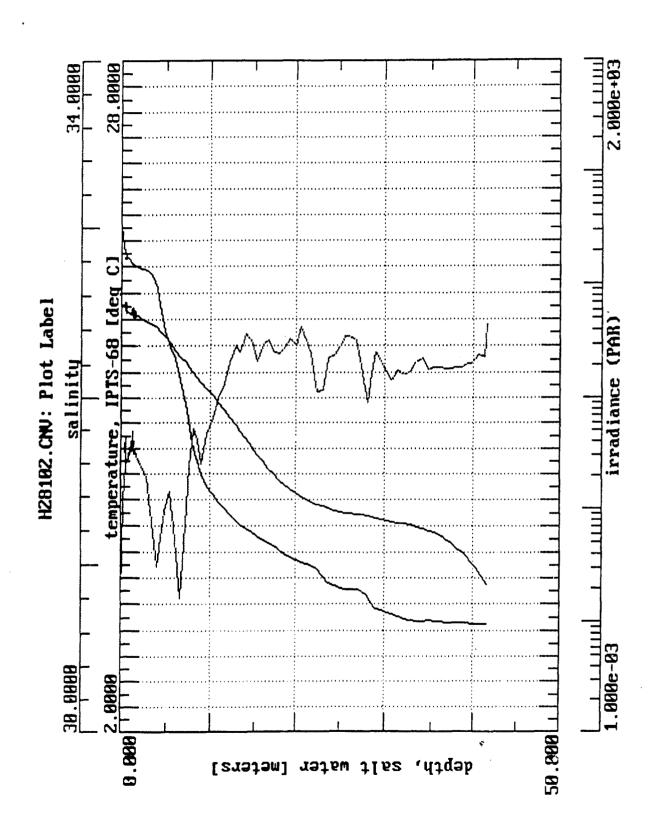
Figure 1

and programs which mimic those used to date but which do not require key entry. Further incorporation of more complete catalogs of both vocal and surface behaviors and the development of similar descriptions for other species of marine mammals also will be the focus of future work. At its present level of development, we have begun to use MCP to develop a database for the assessment of the effects of environmental conditions on whale behavior in the Stellwagen Sanctuary and the Cape Cod Bay Critical Habitat.

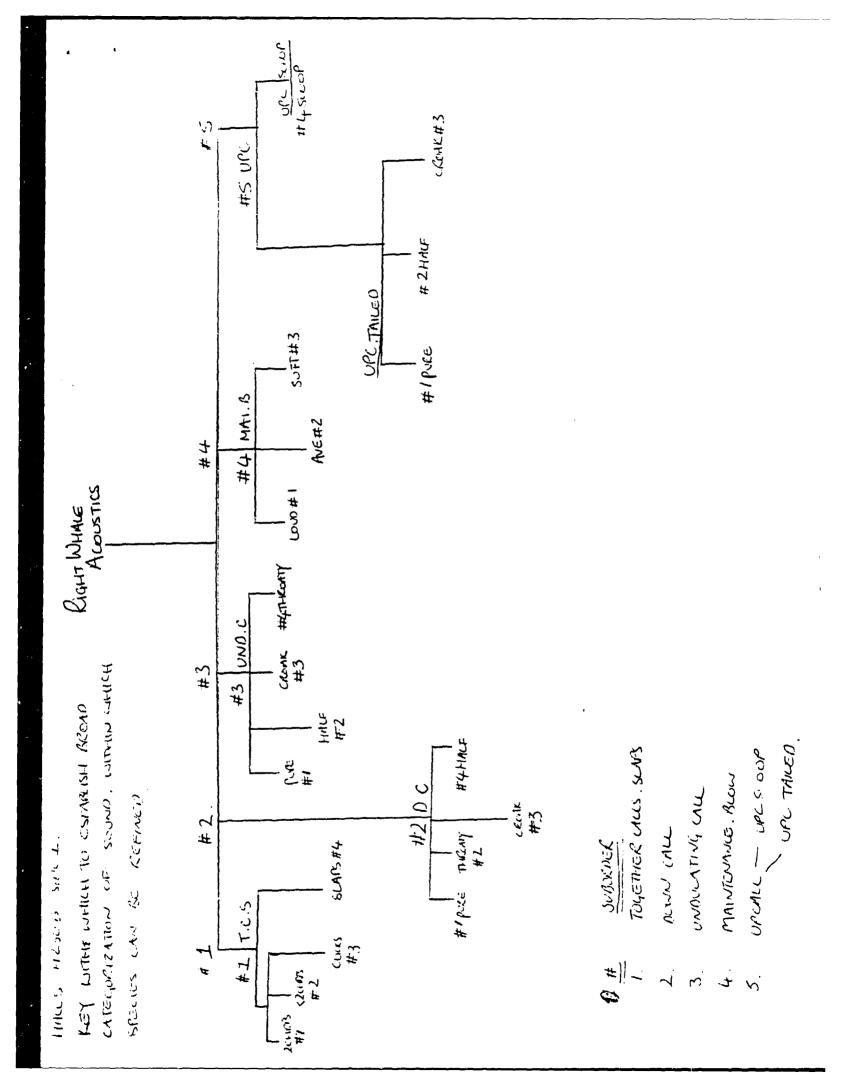
### **Applications**

Although still in the development stage, this holistic approach to the development of baseline data for the documentation of the principal effecting variables influencing the behavior of whales offers considerable promise. Because this documentation protocol is based on simple and inexpensive techniques, the collection of the volume of data needed to develop the baseline information for comparative studies is possible. Further, the template which this protocol suggests includes a variety of oceanographic and environmental parameters which permit the placement of the behavioral observations in the larger context of the observations.

The applications of a holistic, multidisciplinary approach to field behavioral observations are many. Generally these techniques, with the extensive baseline data to support them should considerably improve our ability to design the comparative studies critical to our understanding of the activities of whales in the ocean system and the influences on them. A variety of study areas are suggested: (1) measurement of important characteristics of critical habitats, (2) determination and modeling the effects of a wide variety of human activities on marine mammals, (3) investigation of questions involving the social character of whale populations, and (4) characterization of basic behavior patterns such as foraging, social interaction, and nursery in the context of environmental conditions.



Appendix I
Right Whale Vocalization: Proposed Taxonomic
Structure
by
Nicky Spencer



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//CROAK/2 PURE OR HALF #4.

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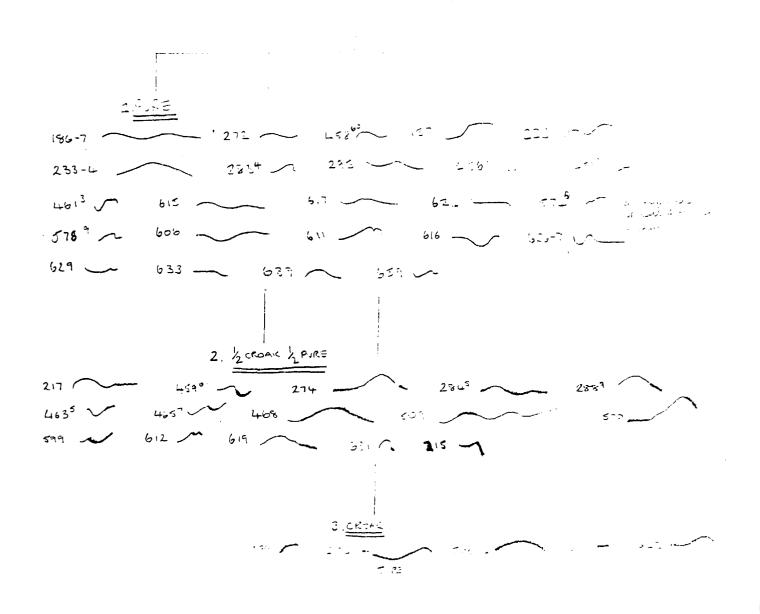
THE TYPE CALL FOR LINDULATING CALLS IS 273. IT IS OF THE FAMILY CROAK.

FILENAME! LÖBUNCIH. 273

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SUBJECTED FAMILY#

DURATION: 1.375 Sec.



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AVEICACIE BUIN #2

SOFT BULL #3

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FLENNIG: ET LLZ BLA 1H. 124

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267, 272, 280

298, 303, 310

315 , 333 , 455

4602, 4635, 4724

478, 573, 5789

592, 648

660 with othe sord

124 TYPE

3. <u>50FT B.T./</u>

3

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626, 628, 5-5

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635 -

Appendix II
Right Whale Vocalization: Examples of Types
by
Nicky Spencer

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logfile:\_

Standard Settings for files:

length: 3.5 seconds. scroll rate: 6.8 seconds.

spectral gain: -57.00 db spectral range: 11.0 db

4kHz: sample rate: 10,000 Hz frequency resolution: 19.5 Hz 8kHz: sample rate: 20,000 Hz frequency resolution: 39.1 Hz

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rip-Tape-Side-Counter

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logfile:\_

Standard Settings for files:

length: 3.5 seconds. scroll rate: 6.8 seconds.

spectral gain: -57.00 db spectral range: 11.0 db

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4kHz 8kHz Other: 25ccottz Samme Katic Hz. (circle one)

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length: 3.5 seconds. scroll rate: 6.8 seconds.

spectral gain: -57.00 db spectral range: 11.0 db

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Trip\_Tape-Side-Counter 29

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4kHz 8kHz Other:\_\_

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4kHz: sample rate: 10,000 Hz frequency resolution: 19.5 Hz

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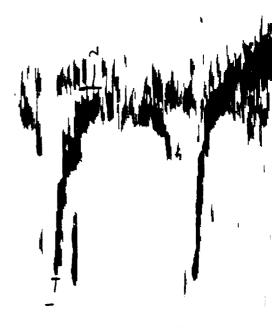
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4kHz 8kHz Other: (circle one)

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Appendix III

Right Whale Vocalization: Examples of Type
Vocalizations used in Numeric Descriptions
by

Dara Wambach

Type Sound: 3tr. (4) (circle one) 4kHz 8kHz Other:

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4kHz: sample rate: 10,000 Hz frequency resolution: 19.5 Hz

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4kHz (8kHz) Other: (circle one)

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Standard Settings for files:

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spectral gain: -57.00 db spectral range: 11.0 db

8kHz: sample rate: 20,000 Hz frequency resolution: 39.1 Hz

4kHz: sample rate: 10,000 Hz frequency resolution: 19.5 Hz

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Standard Settings for files:

length: 3.5 seconds. scroll rate: 6.8 seconds.

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4kHz: sample rate: 10,000 Hz frequency resolution: 19.5 Hz

Comments:

Trip-Tape-Side-Counter 7

4kHz 8kHz Other:\_ (circle one)

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Trip-Tape-Side-Counter 18 / 9

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Trip-Tape-Side-Counter

(4kHz) 8kHz Other:

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Standard Settings for files:

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spectral gain: -57.00 db spectral range: 11.0 db

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# Right Whale Sound

Trip-Tape-Side-Counter

4kHz (8kHz Other:

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logfile: 15/11 6

Standard Settings for files:

length: 3.5 seconds. scroll rate: 6.8 seconds.

spectral gain: -57.00 db spectral range: 11.0 db

8kHz: sample rate: 20,000 Hz frequency resolution: 39.1 Hz

4kHz: sample rate: 10,000 Hz frequency resolution: 19.5 Hz

Comments: 1 48 WW Ext Day & fri () for

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Trip-Tape-Side-Counter

KHy 8kHz Other:\_ (efrele one)

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logfile: # RVV, C

Standard Settings for files:

length: 3.5 seconds. scroll rate: 6.8 seconds.

spectral gain: -57.00 db spectral range: 11.0 db

8kHz: sample rate: 20,000 Hz frequency resolution: 39.1 Hz 4kHz: sample rate: 10,000 Hz frequency resolution: 19.5 Hz

comments: tonal mode Jakine call (1)

Appendix IV
Right Whale Vocalization: Numeric Description
by
Dara Wambach

# Appendix III

The following describes preliminary use of the RTS sonagraphic system and the notation used in the examples of the numerical descriptions used in the accompanying log data work sheets.

Notes of sample Type Sounds and worksheet, September 6, 1993

Logging-in Type sounds:

words ronningely page With the goal of using numeric frequency and time duration values to describe similarities and differe through RTS (see Engineering Design manual for establishing logfiles). Using the logfile c:\signal\eg points from RTS sound files which I had previously compiled in a blue right whale vocalization catalo most of the sample sounds I indicated on the printouts the points which were logged into egtype.2. T the sound they represent, and with the order in which the information is prompted.

- 1 left end of primary element
- 2 highest point of primary
- 3 lowest point of primary
- 4 terminal (left) end of primary
- 5 right side of highest element of sound
- 6 highest level of sound
- 7 lowest point of top of scund
- 8 terminal end of highest sound element

When the location request was repetitive or didn't apply, I often hit Z for zerolog. The marks on the potential for different high/low, etc.. assignments according to the frequency (4 or 8 kHz) at which th information recorded in Egtype.2 are the frequency of the saved file, the rw.6 log number (also an ide sound file name), and type of sound. These entries represent the 20 query limit per logentry.

Coverting logfile to EXCEL:

In excel:

remove extranneous characters, name columns, make calculation columns for desired informati

1. Pr notes

<sup>\*</sup>copy egtype.2 to egtype.5 (or something similar)

<sup>\*</sup>go into DOS to edit, removing header lines

<sup>\*</sup>bring file into word to create document and even-out all tab spacing (essential for converting log colu

<sup>\*</sup>Pull rwtype2.doc into Excel, convert to rwtype2.xls

<sup>\*</sup>most recent file is b:\rwtype3.xls

**RWTYPE3.XLS** 

.)		•	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	T E S. A C S		
<u> </u>	B(1)	<u> </u>	D-12)	E-12	F (3	
log #	time primbl	frq primbl	prihigh time		prilow time	prilow freq
1	1.097	344	2.711	469	1.097	281
2	0.641	344	2.248	453	1.644	313
3	1.757	500	1.773	563	2.158	313
4	1.821	500	1.837	531	2.262	359
5	1.004	531	1.5	656	1.973	344
6	0.828	578	1.348	609	1.798	406
7	0.837	469	1.945	500	2.1	219
8	0.986	438	1.911	500	2.164	188
9	0.426	563	2.042	625	2.969	344
10	0.624	578	2.209	625	3.153	625
11	1.228	375	2.067	469	2.303	156
12	1.59	375	2.45	438	2.664	125
13	1.431	344	1.979	438	2.357	156
14	1.589	375	2.455	438	2.515	156
15	1.522	625	2.557	906	2.749	375
16	0.655	641	1.651	891	1.954	375
17	1.063	188	2.904	344	1.629	0
18	0.617	94	2.387	328	1.102	0
19	0.938	188	2.304	625	1.114	78
20	1.863	125	3.234	625	2.062	63
21	1.346	125	2.183	188	2.467	109
22	1.701	63	2.135	500	2.493	63
23	0.373	109	0	0	0	0
24	1.984	375	2.105	469	2.061	281
25	2.208	359	2.315	453	2.267	313
26	0.423	125	1.185	266	0.746	0
27	1.953	125	2.695	406	2.261	0
28	2.411	16	2.635	78	2.405	47
29	2.017	0	2.242	188	2.017	0
30	1.606	125	2.499	500	1.715	0
31	1.819	156	2.663	469	2.022	31
32	1.034	78	2.145	313	1.786	125
34	0.924	547	0.924	609	1.036	469

1. Connect spread sheet will catalogue sounds

a) through ruty pezixes column A

log # which is recorded in red in comments seens

b) Also see column & for rule by

part of name

Colored Seen column & to rule by

### **RWTYPE3.XLS**

H (m)	I (4)	ン(学)	K (5)	L (6)	M. (6-
	prime right freq	high left time	high left freq		freq highest
2.711	375	1.247	4594	1.787	4656
2.253	422	0.683	3969	0.699	3969
2.451	406	1.838	3938	2.082	4156
2.51	438	2.179	3984	2.179	3984
2.943	438	1.032	4688	1.68	4813
2.768	422	1.113	3969	1.113	3969
2.255	375	1.319	5375	1.319	5438
2.418	422	0.991	3984	0.991	3984
3.121	469	1.108	4313	1.628	4250
3.288	625	1.141	3969	1.141	3969
2.615	297	1.338	3594	1.458	3719
2.982	313	1.919	6094	1.919	6094
2.428	219	1.502	4188	1.612	4313
2.592	188	1.671	3797	1.852	3906
2.902	375	1.626	4344	2.497	4844
2.025	422	0.747	3984	0.747	3984
2.916	250	1.629	3344	2.4	3969
2.404	313	1.159	3500	1.667	3891
2.309	594	1.104	3984	1.104	3984
3.24	594	2.11	5156	2.242	5625
2.692	172	1.975	1984	0	0
2.71	313	1.93	4563	0	0
1.823	109	0.514	922	0.514	922
2.105	406	2.023	1719	2.045	1813
2.315	453	2.235	1750	0	0
1.778	0	1.01	359	1.262	406
2.779	375	2.436	531	2.719	1000
2.641	109	2.4	4000	0	0
2.248	94	2.022	7906	0	0
2.554	438	1.814	2094	2.082	2234
2.784	438	2	2094	2.137	2219
2.532	281	1.644	1406	2.156	1641
1.304	531	1.018	3063	1.018	3063

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					ن		
1			RWTYPE3.XLS		5		
N(7)	07	) PS	QX	R		T	$\bigcup$
low high time	low high freq	time high right	freq high right	kHz	rw.6 log	type	prim length
1.488	4500	1.867	4656	8		full call	1.614
1.756	3750	1.756	3750	4	35	full call	1.612
2.218	3781	2.327	4125	8	69	full call	0.694
2.278	3797	2.334	3953	4	69	full call	0.689
1.838	4406	2.148	4156	8	61	full call	1.939
1.545	3688	1.77	3953	4	61	full call	1.94
1.38	5344	1.413	5344	8	54	full call	1.418
2.291	3984	2.291	3984	4	54	full call	1.432
1.336	4031	1.645	4250	8	49	full call	2.695
1.596	3594	1.821	3734	4	49	full call	2.664
2.023	3500	2.023	3500	4	53	tail call	1.387
1.919	6094	1.919	6094	8	53	tail call	1.392
1.54	4125	1.683	4250	8	34	tail call	0.997
1.677	3797	1.858	3906	4	34	tail call	1.003
1.687	3406	2.837	4219	8	63	fdif call	1.38
1.927	3984	1.927	3984	4	63	fdif call	1.37
2.761	3125	3.246	3625	8	36	fdif call	1.853
2.324	3156	2.723	3641	4	36	fdif call	1.787
1.216	3844	1.339	3891	4	28	blow	1.371
2.11	5156	2.242	5656	8	28	blow	1.377
0	C	2.287	2031	4	29	blow	1.346
0	0	2.106	4563	8	29	blow	1.009
0.897	594	1.527	594	4	21	low call	1.45
2.023	1688	2.045	1813	8	43	low call	0.121
0	0	2.256	1750	4	110	low call	0.107
1.125	313	1.24	375	4	173	low call	1.355
2.629	531	2.725	1031	8	173	low call	0.826
0	0	2.526	4000	4	456	slap	0.23
0	0	2.055	7906	8	456	slap	0.231
1.836	2094	2.104	2094	4		comp c	0.948
2.285	2125	2.345	2125	8		comp c	0.965
1.998	1328	2.232	1469	4		comp c	1.498
1.074	3016	1.074	3016	4		comp c	0.38

RWTYPE3.XLS	
M	- \

	1 ·	
max freq range	when is primary lowest?	prim x length by type
4375	0	
3656	1.003	
3843	0.401	
3625	0.441	
4469	0.969	
3563	0.97	
5219	1.263	·
3796	1.178	
3906	2.543	full calls
3344	2.529	1.6697
3563	1.075	
5969	1.074	
4157	0.926	tailed calls
3750	0.926	1.19475
4469	1.227	
3609	1.299	
3969	0.566	full diffuse calls
3891	0.485	1.5975
3906	. 0.176	
5562	0.199	
1875	1.121	blows
4500	0.792	1.27575
922	no fluctuation	
1532	0.077	
1437	0.059	
406	0.323	low calls
1000	0.308	0.7718
3953	no fluctuation	slap
7906	no fluctuation	0.2305
2234	0.109	
2188	0.203	
1516	0.752	compact calls
2594	0.112	0.94775
	3656 3843 3625 4469 3563 5219 3796 3906 3344 3563 5969 4157 3750 4469 3609 3969 3969 3891 3906 5562 1875 4500 922 1532 1437 406 1000 3953 7906 2234 2188 1516	3656       1.003         3843       0.401         3625       0.441         4469       0.969         3563       0.97         5219       1.263         3796       1.178         3906       2.543         3344       2.529         3563       1.075         5969       1.074         4157       0.926         3750       0.926         4469       1.227         3609       1.299         3969       0.566         3891       0.485         3906       0.176         5562       0.199         1875       1.121         4500       0.792         922 no fluctuation       1532         1532       0.077         1437       0.059         406       0.323         1000       0.308         3953 no fluctuation       7906 no fluctuation         7906 no fluctuation       2234         0.109       2188         0.203       1516

### **RWTYPE3.XLS**

7	•	
prim x low fr	ed.	
	·	
		_
		_
full calls	339.	_
	000	<u>-</u>
tailed calls		i
	148.2	5
	·	_
full diffuse ca		
	187.	2
blows	78.25	-
	70.20	
		+
low calls		
siap	118.8	4
	23.5	
		1
compact calls	207	
	297	J

Appendix V
Right Whale Observation: Example H250

The following is a collation of a segment of an analyzed observation containing oriented elements of the top seven databases listed in figure 1. The oceanographic data in the form of CTD profiles was collected at a different location that the behavioral data. This preliminary listing is a facsimile of the raw data stream, a section of a 76 min. observation which demonstrates the display capabilities of this simplified approach to multivariable observations.

## Header:

Date: 03-31-93 Time: 140356

LORAN: 13904.2/44030.0

Weather: gentle variable, 9°C., 2/10 hi

Vis: unlimited Cruise: H250

CTD Data: attached verticals

ZPL Density @ sync time +345: 00956/m<sup>3</sup>

Data follows(relative time base; letters refer to individual a-c):

Time	Behavior	Vessei	Vocal	Orientation
0011 0015 0016	flu a flu b 1/2flu c	igear,0700		r=45m;b=150;h=320
0025		ogear		
0027			up2	
0037		igear,0400		
0038			up2	
0039			lo3	
0043		ogear		04.0/30.8
0047		_	up2	
0051			up2?	
0067			up2	
0070			up1	
0074			up2	
0076			up2	
0079			lo3	
0083			up1	

```
up2
0087
0090 swirl
                             up2 dist
0099
                             up1,slp
0105
                             up2
0109
                             101
0113
                             up? dist
0127
0145 swirt
                                               04.0/30.9
                 igear,0500
0159
0172 spt d
0177 swirt
                                         r=50m;b=240
                 ogear
0188
                             up? dist
0197
                             up? dist
0223
                             up? dist
0251
                             1o1 dist?
0260
                             up? dist
0288
0311 spt?
0311 spt a
                                         r=130m;b=300;h=010;5kts,090
                 igear 0900
0312 spt c
0315 rol r b
0317 blog b
                                         r=35m;b=060;h=150
                              up? dist
0320 spt a
0325 spt b
                  ogear
0326 blog a
0329 elog a
0332 bemb a-b
                              up?dist
0333 elog b;kik c?
0333 hup b
0335 eemb a-b
0337 spt b
0345 spt a
0349 rolrb
                                         r=45m;b=100;h=?;03.8/30.8
0354
                              lo? dist
0356 spt b
0357 spt a
0359 blog b
                  igear0500
0361 swirl
0364 spt a
0364 spt c
0365 spt b; arc c
 0389 flu b
 0397 flu a
 0320 arc c?
```